

singly functionalized by means of an amino group, wherein component I and component II are different.

2. (Amended) The antimicrobial copolymer as claimed in claim 1, wherein component II comprises one or more second aliphatically unsaturated monomers, said one or more second aliphatically unsaturated monomers at least singly functionalized by means of a tertiary amino group.

3. (Amended) The antimicrobial copolymer as claimed in claim 1, wherein component I comprises one or more aliphatically unsaturated monomers, said one or more aliphatically unsaturated monomers comprising an ester group at least singly functionalized by means of an amino group.

4. The antimicrobial copolymer as claimed in Claim 1, wherein component I comprises one or more acrylates or one or more methacrylates, said one or more acrylates or said one or more methacrylates at least singly functionalized by means of a tertiary amino group.

5. (Amended) The antimicrobial polymer as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of components I and II is an aliphatically unsaturated monomer functionalized by means of a tertiary amino group, said tertiary amino group having the formula



where R^1 : is a branched, unbranched or cyclic, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon radical having up to 50 carbon atoms which may have substitution by O atoms, N atoms or S atoms, and

R^2 and R^3 : are branched, unbranched or cyclic, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon radicals having up to 25 carbon atoms, which may have

substitution by O atoms, N atoms or S atoms, where R² and R³ are identical or different,

wherein R¹ comprises at least one ester group.

6. (Amended) An antimicrobial coating comprising the antimicrobial copolymer as claimed in claim 1, wherein component I and component II are copolymerized on a substrate.

7. (Amended) An antimicrobial coating comprising the antimicrobial copolymer as claimed in claim 1, wherein component I and component II are graft polymerized on a substrate.

8. (Amended) The antimicrobial coating as claimed in claim 7, wherein the substrate is activated prior to graft polymerization by UV radiation, plasma treatment, corona treatment, flame treatment, ozonization, electrical discharge or γ -radiation.

10. (Amended) A process for preparing an antimicrobial copolymer comprising copolymerizing (component I) one or more aliphatically unsaturated monomers, said one or more aliphatically unsaturated functionalized by means of an ester group and a tertiary amino group, with (component II) one or more second aliphatically unsaturated monomers, said one or more second aliphatically unsaturated monomers at least singly functionalized by means of an amino group, wherein components I and II are different.

11. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein component II comprises one or more second aliphatically unsaturated monomers, said one or more second aliphatically unsaturated monomers at least singly functionalized by means of a tertiary amino group.

12. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein component I comprises one or more aliphatically unsaturated monomers, said one or more aliphatically unsaturated

monomers comprising an ester group at least singly functionalized by means of an amino group.

13. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein component I comprises one or more acrylates or one or more methacrylates, said one or more acrylates or one or more methacrylates at least singly functionalized by means of a tertiary amino group.

14. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein each of components I and II is an aliphatically unsaturated monomer functionalized by means of a tertiary amino group, said tertiary amino group having the formula



where R^1 : is a branched, unbranched or cyclic, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon radical having up to 50 carbon atoms which may have substitution by O atoms, N atoms or S atoms, and

R^2 and R^3 : are branched, unbranched or cyclic, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon radicals having up to 25 carbon atoms, which may have substitution by O atoms, N atoms or S atoms, where R^2 and R^3 are identical or different,

wherein R^1 comprises at least one ester group.

15. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein component I and component II are copolymerized on a substrate.

16. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein component I and component II are graft polymerized on a substrate.

17. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 16, wherein the substrate is activated prior to graft polymerization by UV radiation, plasma treatment, Corona treatment, flame treatment, ozonization, electrical discharge or γ -radiation.

Please add the following new claims.

A³ 23. (New) An article of manufacture comprising an antimicrobial coating, said antimicrobial coating comprising the antimicrobial copolymer claimed in Claim 1.

24. (New) A medical device comprising an antimicrobial coating, said antimicrobial coating comprising the antimicrobial copolymer claimed in Claim 1.

25. (New) A hygiene item comprising an antimicrobial coating, said antimicrobial coating comprising the antimicrobial copolymer claimed in Claim 1.

26. (New) A surface coating, protective paint or other coating comprising the antimicrobial copolymer claimed in Claim 1.

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